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 Authority *WD 901079*
 By *HR-m/SG*, *HRMA*, Date *5/23/91*
OUTGOING
TELEGRAM
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Department of State

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9217
 PRIORITY

FOR THE AMBASSADOR

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762 B.5411/4 9121

Dept increasingly disturbed over UK press treatment of our C-130 Berlin flights and particularly concerned over reftel indicating Foreign Office inspiration certain of these stories. European press reports indicate Soviets and European Communists generally are exploiting this apparent US-UK rift to weaken Western unity in face of Berlin threat. Ambassador requested in his discretion to bring this matter to Lloyd's attention and make following comments:

1. As Lloyd knows there is no basis for report of misunderstanding US intentions continue C-130 flights and no misunderstanding as between State and Defense Depts in USG. *The flights undertaken as a result of firm USG decision*
2. Whether or not UK Government agrees with wisdom of C-130 flights, USG believes strongly that this *airing* ~~coming~~ in press is *unwise* ~~at this time~~ and can have *disruptive* ~~disappointing~~ effect beyond immediate issue.
3. We would appreciate anything HMG can do to restore balance in press reporting.

 Dist.
 Desired
 (Offices
 Only)

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 Drafted by: *[Signature]*
 EUR:BNA:WNBale:JWSwihart:snm 4-17-59

 Telegraphic transmission and
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Foy D. Kohler

Clearances:

EUR/P - Mr. Fleischer (in draft)

P - Berding *[Signature]*GER - McFarland *[Signature]*

S/S CR

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APR 17 1959 P.M.

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~~Spurious suggestion that Soviet flights are provocative~~

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4. USG attaches greatest importance obtaining public understanding of facts in C-130 case, particularly that Soviets are attempting to make prior practice a justification for imposing permanent ceiling restrictions which in emergency could prove real handicap. Fact is that longer misunderstanding persists among public the longer US must keep up flights of this type in order assure no misinterpretation.

such
5. Argument that ~~such~~ flights provocative just before Foreign Ministers Meeting is spurious since Soviets only allow themselves to appear provoked when they calculate it is to their advantage. It might also be suggested as indication of US general attitude, that Vice President Nixon is visiting Moscow.

MURPHY

Murphy
acting
mg

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